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Letter dated 27 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the occasion of the third anniversary of the adoption of the General Assembly resolution entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine" (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 27 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the occasion of the third anniversary of the adoption of the General Assembly resolution entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine"

27 March 2017

The date 27 March 2017 marks the third anniversary of the adoption of the General Assembly resolution entitled "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine" (68/262).

The international community thereby reaffirmed the need for strict compliance by States with their obligations under international law and its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. As underscored in the resolution, the referendum held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on 16 March 2014, having no validity, cannot form the basis for any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or of the city of Sevastopol.

Despite the clear demand of the international community, over the past three years the Russian Federation has not abandoned its aggressive actions and gross violations of the Charter of the United Nations and fundamental norms and principles of international law, and has continued its temporary occupation of the Crimean Peninsula, blatant infringements of human rights and open military aggression in Donbas. It is high time to recognize that the past 25 years of Russia's membership in the United Nations have been tarnished by its constant disregard for the Charter of the Organization, culminating in Russia's aggression and occupation of part of the territory of Georgia in 2008 and of Ukraine in 2014, as well as ongoing aggression in the Ukrainian Donbas.

The adoption of the General Assembly resolution entitled "Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)" (71/205) on 19 December 2016 became another testimony to the major deterioration of the human rights situation in Crimea. The resolution condemns systematic human rights violations committed by the Russian occupation authorities. By condemning the temporary occupation of Crimea by Russia, the General Assembly urges the Russian Federation to uphold all of its obligations under applicable international law as an occupying power, including by bringing an immediate end to all human rights violations in Crimea.

Ukraine urges the Russian Federation to end its occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and fully comply with the demands of General Assembly resolutions 68/262 and 71/205.

Ukraine will continue to take all steps under international law to counter Russian aggression, alleviate the situation of Ukrainian citizens in the temporarily occupied territory, restore its territorial integrity and ensure that Russia makes full reparation for the injury caused by its internationally wrongful acts.